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## Message from the Mayor

Tomorrow, on November 11 – National Veterans Day – District of Columbia residents will pause to remember our nation's military veterans, who have given their time, energy and dedication to defend America and our unparalleled way of life.

In recognition of Veterans Day, the District of Columbia Office of Veterans Affairs has developed the "District of Columbia Veterans in the Spotlight" Program to feature the military stories and experiences of some of the District of Columbia's Veterans, during the month of November.

During each week, in November, a District of Columbia Veteran will be profiled as an example of the many District of Columbia Veterans who have proudly served and sacrificed on behalf of our grateful nation. Our District of Columbia website ([www.dc.gov](http://www.dc.gov)) will feature the profiles of these proud District of Columbia Veterans. A list of local Veterans Day activities and events is also featured on the website.

Although Veterans Day is an annual celebration, our appreciation for veterans should not be limited to one week or one day a year. I hope people will take part in some of the activities planned for this weekend and next week to honor our veterans, but I also hope they will remember throughout the year the sacrifices that our veterans have made to ensure the freedoms we enjoy today.

In particular, we should take a moment to pay tribute to the men and women of the District of Columbia serving in Iraq and overseas. These men and women demonstrate the utmost in service to our nation. They share a profound respect for each other and for their country. All of us should be proud of their service to our community.

Our patriotic service men and women of the District of Columbia deserve full representation in Congress. It is their birthright as American citizens, and that point is underscored by their devotion to this great country. I want to thank the Unit Troops and Troop Family Members, for Commitment and Sacrifice.

Additionally, I have issued a proclamation declaring November 2005 "Hire a Veteran Month." The proclamation calls on businesses in the District of Columbia to provide employment opportunities to individuals who have served in the Armed Forces.

All of us remember well the words of the great John F. Kennedy, who so poignantly in 1961 said: "Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country." Our veterans embody President Kennedy's sentiment. On behalf of the District of Columbia, I thank and salute all of our proud District of Columbia Veterans for their past and ongoing military service.



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# Police Chief Charles Ramsey Receives Holocaust Museum Award

On November 3, I joined officials from the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in honoring Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) Chief Charles H. Ramsey for his innovative leadership in educating MPD officers and recruits about the Holocaust.

The program that Chief Ramsey helped to develop, "Law Enforcement and Society: Lessons From the Holocaust," brings officers to the Holocaust Museum for training during which they explore Holocaust history and the role that the German police played in the persecution and murder of Jews and others during the Nazi regime. The program has been replicated by other police departments and federal agencies, including the FBI. Chief Ramsey was honored at the Holocaust Museum's annual Washington Dinner.

I applaud Chief Ramsey for his vision in developing this innovative program that has become a model for police departments across the country. The chief is recognized as one of the most creative police chiefs in the country, and our city is lucky to have him. His extraordinary efforts have made our neighborhoods safer, and his officers are respected and valued as integral members of the community.

Since its inception in 1999, "Law Enforcement and Society" has served as a model for other Museum programs reaching decision-makers nationwide. The Museum has developed specialized education programs for members of the military, judges, State Department officials, and others. "Law Enforcement and Society" has provided a foundation for bringing the lessons of the Holocaust to those who play vital roles in defending individual liberties both at home and abroad.

Shortly after arriving in Washington, Chief Ramsey visited the Museum at the invitation of representatives from the Anti-Defamation League (ADL). He later requested that the Museum and ADL develop a training program for the department. In the resulting "Law Enforcement and Society," MPD officers explore Holocaust history and the role of the German police in the denial of individual rights and the persecution and murder of Jews and others during the Nazi regime.

In contrasting the role of police in Nazi Germany to the role of police in a democracy, officers reflect on their unique work as protectors of individual liberty and what can happen when they fail in that mission.

## The DC Marketing Center Annual Luncheon

On November 3, I had a chance to celebrate the five-year-old DC Marketing Center, and all the great work it's doing to increase economic development across our city.

The occasion was the Washington, DC Marketing Center's Annual Meeting and Development Showcase. In short, it's a celebration of our city's economic resurgence. It features a development showcase followed by an awards luncheon, and it's been a sell-out since its inception three years ago. Each year, the center celebrates one particular industry and its development dynamic in DC. This year's theme was the District's office market development.

The DC Marketing Center is a non-profit organization that promotes business opportunities throughout the District and contributes to business retention and attraction activities.

During my remarks at the luncheon I discussed how our city is in the midst of a \$40.1 billion development boom – the largest construction cycle in the city's history. Our sharp rise in development is increasing our tax base, giving our city more money to fund our vital needs.

The office industry accounts for \$21.3 billion of our ongoing development dynamic, more than half of the \$40 billion total I mentioned above. Our city's office market is the third largest in the US behind New York and Chicago. Seventy million square feet of projects have been completed since 2001, are currently under construction or in the pipeline; and 240 developments make up this remarkable expansion of our office base, and hundreds of thousands of employees work in these offices on a daily basis.

But we're not stopping there. We continue to examine numerous strategies to make sure that the District's business environment maintains its high quality and competitive edge in the marketplace. So I tip my hat to the developers, brokers, investors, businesses and tenants who comprise the office industry and make it the successful market that it is today.

At the event I congratulated the DC Marketing Center on this milestone in the organization's history. Five years is a cause for celebration in the history of any business, and the Marketing Center has a long list of accomplishments in economic development here in the District.



BRC Alerts

DCLMPC Partnership  
Works!

DCOA Spotlight on Aging

DHS Outreach

DISB DC Financial  
Gateway Express

OAG Inter Alia...

OAPIA Updates

OPGD Grant Funding  
Alerts

## Car Sharing – Easing Congestion in the District

To create a city with less congestion and less pollution, we need to continue to think of novel ways to enhance our transportation in the District. That's why I'm proud that the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) recently announced the designation of 50 new on-street parking spaces for "car sharing" vehicles throughout the District of Columbia, including Petworth, Adams Morgan, Mount Pleasant and Historic Anacostia.

The spaces are marked with orange poles, special signage and pavement markings outlining the parking space. These 50 are in addition to 150 spaces already in use, mostly on private property, with a small number on property controlled by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. The 50 DDOT spaces were picked in consultation with local Advisory Neighborhood Commissions. **Zipcar** and **Flexcar** are the two companies working with DDOT on this endeavor.

Car sharing meets many of DDOT's goals – it reduces traffic congestion, air pollution and demand for parking while increasing demand for alternative forms of transportation. It also allows members to use a car while only paying for the time and mileage that they actually use.

The positive experience of Arlington, Virginia, and other localities, as well as research studies, show that people who join car sharing services often sell their cars or avoid buying a second one, using transit as well as walking and biking instead. The result is good for the environment, traffic and parking congestion.

In addition, car sharing can be especially advantageous for low-income residents if their transportation needs are not fully met by transit, taxis or traditional rental cars. The contract with Zipcar and Flexcar requires that cars be available in all wards of the city. For more information on car sharing, please visit [ddot.dc.gov/carsharing](http://ddot.dc.gov/carsharing).

## Supporting Artists and the Arts

The arts continue to be an essential component of the District's revitalization efforts to improve the quality of life for all residents. In fact, the arts and culture are the second leading industry for the city behind tourism – generating an impressive \$1.4 billion for the District's economy each year.

We made an exciting announcement during my weekly press briefing on November 2 to discuss new funds for artists across our city. In the city's budget for FY 2006, I provided an additional \$4 million for competitive grants for approximately 400 District artists and arts organizations. This amount was increased substantially from the funds allotted in previous years because I believe in the mission of the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities. The commission encourages diverse artistic expressions and provides various learning opportunities so that all District of Columbia residents and visitors can experience the rich culture of our city.

During my weekly press briefing, I presented a symbolic check for \$4.5 million to District artists and arts organizations in order to draw attention to Washington's cultural community and how this increased funding will further enrich the District. I was joined by Tony Gittens, Executive Director of the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, and Dorothy McSweeney, Chair of the commission.

With the additional funds, the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities can now invest in more neighborhoods throughout the city including our Hot Spot areas, our Main Streets and many underserved communities east of the river. The appropriated funds will support public performances, arts in education and other cultural enrichment activities.

The work of artists enriches the quality of life for District residents and adds to the cultural experiences available to Washington's visitors.

## 5th Annual Film DC Screenwriting Competition Announced

Our next screenwriting star is somewhere out there in the city—and we want to find him or her. Our Office of Motion Picture and TV Development and the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities are currently accepting original, unpublished manuscripts written by Washington, DC residents.

Eighty-five percent of the scripts locations must be authentic Washington, DC locations. Scripts will be evaluated on the basis of authenticity of locations, originality, structure, character development, dialogue, writing skill, commercial potential, and the judges' impressions.

The first place winner will travel to Los Angeles, California, for three days next year to visit the set of the Emmy Award-winning television show *The West Wing*, some of which is filmed here in the District, and participate in a writer's session with the creators of the show.

This is a terrific opportunity for writers young and old. Recently, actress Nicole Kidman was in the District for several days of filming for "The Visiting," actor Robert De Niro was in town to film *The Good Shepherd*; and over the summer Michael Douglas was in DC filming *The Sentinel*. Also over the summer the ABC TV series *Commander-in-Chief* was filmed here along with other TV series *E-Ring* and *Bones*.

Entries must be postmarked on or before November 14, 2005 and sent to 441 4th Street, NW, Suite 760 North, Washington, DC 20001. For more information, call our Office of Motion Picture and TV Development at (202) 727-6608.



## District Activities



Mayor Williams and several members of the Washington Redskins participated in an overhaul of the Teen Room at the Boys and Girls Club on Milwaukee Place in Southeast. The renovations included painting and furniture assembly.



Mayor Williams attended a ceremony inside the Capitol Rotunda for civil rights pioneer Rosa Parks. Ms. Parks was the first woman to lie in honor in the Rotunda.



Mayor Williams welcomed the Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall as well as First Lady Laura Bush to the SEED School in Southeast. The Mayor served as host as the group toured the school facilities. The royal couple spoke with students about their experiences at the SEED school.



Mayor Anthony A. Williams presented a symbolic check for \$4.5 million to DC artists and arts organizations representing the increased funding available for grants in FY 2006 for Washington's cultural community.

## Community News

- [Find Out How Washington Observes Veterans Day and Honors Those Who Served](#)
- [Mayor Williams Receives Regional Planning Award](#)
- [Mayor Expresses Disappointment with Circuit Court Ruling on Commuter Tax](#)

## Upcoming Events

[View All News Releases](#)

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|-------|---|
| 11/11 | <b>Veterans Day - Wreath-laying</b><br>1 pm<br>US Navy Memorial<br>701 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW                                  |
| 11/11 | <b>Veterans Day - Musical Performance and Wreath-laying</b><br>1 pm<br>African American Civil War Memorial<br>1200 U Street, NW |
| 11/12 | <b>Household Hazardous Waste/E-Cycling Collection</b><br>9 am – 3 pm<br>Trash Transfer Station<br>3200 Benning Road, NE         |

